

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-14 (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. **(currently amended)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim ~~15~~ 32 and wherein said seal includes an annular sealing element in the form of a plastic sealing ring coaxially aligned with said sealing ring and having a width less than that of said sealing ring and a thickness greater than the distance extending between said groove first side wall and said sealing ring end face.

17. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 16 and wherein said seal further includes a formed part, said formed part is operatively associated with said plastic sealing ring so that when said seal is charged with a pressure medium, said formed part will press said plastic sealing ring against said groove first side wall.

18. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 17 and further including:

a) an annular groove, said annular groove extends into said sealing ring end face and is configured to receive said formed part so that when said seal is charged with a pressure medium said formed part is deformed in such a manner that the force of said plastic sealing ring pressing against said groove first side wall is caused to be increased.

19. **(canceled)**

20. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 17 and wherein said formed part is a ring, said ring is at least one of flexible and elastic and is constructed from at least one of plastic and rubber material.

21. **(currently amended)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim ~~15~~ 32 and wherein said sealing ring has a second end face and said guide element groove has a second side wall, a friction-reducing intermediate disk is provided between said sealing ring second end face and said guide element groove second side wall.

22. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim 21 and further including:

a) at least one hydrostatic relief channel, said at least one hydrostatic relief channel operatively associated with said sealing ring and extending therein from said end face to said second end face to provide fluid communication therebetween.

23. **(currently amended)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim ~~15~~ 32 and further including:

a) at least one annular groove, said at least one annular groove extending in said sealing ring cylindrical outer surface.

24. **(currently amended)** A low friction seal assembly as in claim ~~15~~ 32 and further including:

a) a second side wall, said second side wall associated with said guide element groove; and

b) a drainage channel, said drainage channel operatively associated with said second side wall and extending outwardly through said guide element from said second side wall.

25-31. **(canceled)**

32. **(previously presented)** A low friction seal assembly comprising:

a) a guide element for guiding a shaft, said guide element having a groove extending therein, said groove having a bottom wall and a first side wall;

b) a sealing ring, said sealing ring received within said groove, said sealing ring having a cylindrical inner surface adapted to be positioned adjacent a shaft surface to be sealed, an end face disposed adjacent said groove first side wall and an outer cylindrical surface disposed adjacent said groove bottom wall; and

c) a seal, said seal disposed between said sealing ring end face and said groove first side wall so that when said seal is subjected to a pressure medium, propagation of the pressure medium is caused to take place only between said cylindrical inner surface of said sealing ring and the shaft surface to be sealed with a substantially continuous decrease in pressure occurring along the length of said sealing ring.

33. **(canceled)**